



Regular Meeting

Item number 15 – Open session

Subject: Notice of Board Elections

Presenter(s): Cassandra Lichnock

Item type: Action

Date and time: September 24, 2026– 15 minutes

Attachment(s):

Attachment 1 – 2027 Teachers’ Retirement Board Candidate Information Packet

Attachment 2 – Resolution

PowerPoint presentation(s): None

Item Purpose

The purpose of the item is to initiate the process to conduct the 2027 election of active members and participants to the Board by adopting a Notice of Election.

Recommendation

CalSTRS staff recommends the board approve the attached resolution to adopt the Notice of Election announcing the 2027 Election of Active Employee Members to the Teachers’ Retirement Board.

Executive Summary

In the fall of 2027, pursuant to Section 22200 and 22200.5 of the Education Code, CalSTRS will be conducting the seventh election of three members of the Board who represent active CalSTRS members and participants. The four-year terms of those elected in 2027 will begin on January 1, 2028.

Regulations concerning the election require CalSTRS to issue a Notice of Election to members announcing the nomination and election period, information on eligibility and the nomination process, as well as guidelines on qualifications for becoming a candidate. CalSTRS will post the Notice of Election adopted by the board on CalSTRS.com and include it in the upcoming

CalSTRS Connections—the CalSTRS publication mailed to active Defined Benefit members and Cash Balance Benefit participants.

The draft Notice of Election requires candidates to collect 250 wet signatures of active members or participants to qualify as a candidate. CalSTRS has required 250 wet signatures in all six past elections. Staff recommends keeping the signature requirement at the current number, as it represents a serious base of support, but not so large that it is overly burdensome.

The Candidate Information Packet (Attachment 1) includes the draft Notice of Election and is consistent with existing regulations that were amended by the Board at the November 2025 meeting.

Background

The CalSTRS Teachers' Retirement Board is comprised of 12 members. Three of its members are elected by and represent active CalSTRS members and participants. The three elected members are designated as follows:

- A Pre K-12 or County Office of Education employee who is an active CalSTRS Defined Benefit member or Cash Balance Benefit participant. This person cannot be an administrator.
 - Elected by: All Pre K-12 and COE employees who are active CalSTRS Defined Benefit members or Cash Balance Benefit participants.
- A Pre K-12 or County Office of Education employee who is an active CalSTRS Defined Benefit Program member or Cash Balance Benefit participant, including administrators.
 - Elected by: All Pre K-12 and COE employees who are active CalSTRS Defined Benefit members or Cash Balance Benefit participants.
- A community college instructor who is an active Defined Benefit member or Cash Balance participant
 - Elected by: Active CalSTRS Defined Benefit members or Cash Balance Benefit participants who are employed by a community college.

The Board adopted regulations (CCR section 24000–24009) regarding elections in 2003 and amended these regulations in 2009 and 2025 (included in the attachment 1 – 2027 Teachers' Retirement Board Candidate Information Packet). In advance of each election, regulations require the Board adopt and distribute the Notice of Election—containing candidate nomination and election guidelines, eligibility criteria for candidates and voters, how to obtain candidate nomination packets from CalSTRS, and the schedule of events.

The Board amended the regulations in November 2025 to address concerns raised by candidates in the last election cycle. Those amendments included:

- Collecting less confidential and sensitive personal information from those signing candidate petition forms. Previously, members were required to provide the last four digits of their social security number. Under the updated regulations, members now only need to supply their month and day of birth, as well as their current employer's name.
- Allow for the electronic submission of candidate nomination packets.
- Adoption of gender-neutral terminology throughout the regulations.
- Non-substantiative changes to reorganize existing regulation sections for ease of readability and subject matter relevance.

CalSTRS will provide the Candidate Information Packet electronically on our website, consistent with regulations and past practices. Should a candidate wish to receive a hard copy, the Election Coordinator will provide it upon request.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORTING

Candidates for the Teachers' Retirement Board election are subject to certain filing and reporting requirements under the Political Reform Act of 1974 found at Government Code section 81000 et seq. The Political Reform Act is administered and enforced by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

The election packet mailed to individuals requesting information, as well as the Board Election site on CalSTRS.com, will contain a contact phone number and a link to the FPPC. Once the qualified candidates are announced by the Elections Coordinator, the FPPC will create a filing schedule for candidates that will provide filing deadlines based on the election schedule.

ELECTION COORDINATOR CONTACT

Individuals interested in running for a board seat should contact the CalSTRS Election Coordinator at 916-414-1411 or by emailing electioncoordinator@calstrs.com.

Strategic Plan Linkage: there is no element relevant to the Strategic Plan

Board Policy Linkage: there is no element relevant to the Board Policy (Reference: CCR Title 5, Div 3, Article 13, Sections 24000 – 24009)
